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LSU SHREVEPORT

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Thursday
March 27th, 2008
Volume 52, Issue 7

Advice for students may be more than just everyday advising

Whitney Tarkowski
Contributing Writer

Registering for classes is just around the corner, but before registration every student must get advised.

Each student is assigned to an advisor in their college. The advisor, who is typically a professor, teaches in a student's particular field and helps guide students with their curriculum. A list of contacts for every college is posted on the LSUS website under "Admission" and ideal times to meet with an advisor usually occurs after classes are posted.

The admissions department suggests that before a student is advised they look at possible classes and check for pre-requisites especially in both the science and foreign language departments.

When students attend meetings with advisors about class schedules, each person needs to be prepared.

"The student should know his/her curriculum and not rely 100% on the advisor. When students attend advising sessions, it should not be an exercise in selecting courses. Instead, it should be an interactive experience between the advisor and student. Your degree plan is just that, your plan, and you should be reviewing your curriculum, being sure that you understand the steps you need to take to reach

cont. page 4

Courtesy of Don Bloxom

Smells like team spirit

The Pilots won a spot in the NAIA tournament in Kansas City for the fourth consecutive year. The Pilots edged out the University of Science and Arts (Okla.) in the first round on March 19 by a score of 71-69, despite shooting a mere 39.5 percent from the field. This was the best showing the Pilots have made in the tournament since 2005. The squad dropped out of the tournament in the second round when they were defeated by Azusa Pacific (Calif.) 83-69 on March 21.

Student leaders fight to lower textbook prices

Justin Tison
Staff Writer

The Council of Student Body Presidents passed a resolution March 8 that encourages the state legislature to charge the board of regents with finding ways to lower textbook costs.

The COSBP, a voice for college students in Louisiana to the board of regents and the state legislature, has been working since 2004 to find ways to lower textbook costs and had also approved a similar resolution in 2005.

According to the resolution, a U.S. Government Accountability Office study said that the average cost of books and supplies for first time, full time students represent 30 percent of tuition and fees at four-year institutions.

The resolution also states that according to a fall 2006 study by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group the cost of textbooks has risen four times the rate of inflation since 1994.

The resolution does not offer any specific recommendations to the legislature or the board of regents. However, Nicole Goad, Vice President of Student Government Association, said that during the meeting in which the legislation was passed many recommendations were brought up.

"One of the recommendations was for the schools to publish a textbook list 90 days prior to the start of each semester," Goad said. "This would allow for more competition because students will be able to compare between their campus bookstore and other outlets."

Mike Schwalke/Consultant

According to Goad, the COSBP has a close working relationship with the board of regents and also carries weight with the state legislature.

"The legislature is so separated from the voice of students that with the COSBP pushing them and speaking for students then they will become aware of the concerns of students," Goad said. "Since the COSBP was created by the legislature as a voice for students across the state they carry a lot of

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Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Devin White, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Retractions

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a retraction is a public statement, either in print, or by verbal statement that is made to correct a previously made statement that was incorrect, invalid, or in error. The intent of a public retraction is to correct any incorrect information.

The Almagest holds all rights if deemed necessary to retract such statements made, and shall, at will.

Retraction notices should be made by e-mail or phone.

Opinion

Students should be clamoring about the campus lab moving

Students should be in an uproar because of the Campus-Wide Lab situation but not for the reasons you might think. The lab should be moving to the UC. It's a clear choice that would serve the students of our university better on every level. It's even cheaper to run the lab in the UC, because we won't have to pay to heat and cool the building on weekends – the UC is already heated and cooled seven days a week. Students will have snacks available at The Port right next door, the game room is right there for students to take a study break, and student activities can set up right outside the lab to let students know what's going on around campus. We've even got couches and tables all over the UC that provide a quiet place to study not far away from the computers if that's what you're looking for. Students using the lab in the evenings might even find their way over to one of our basketball games to watch our men and women hand out a thrashing to our opponents.

It's understandable that the administration made the decision to move the lab. We've got to open up that space for academic programs that need it. When you really think about it, the location isn't that good anyway. What is not understandable at all is the rush to cram a bunch of computers and printers into a corner of the library and call it a lab. In my opinion, that's an utterly ridiculous idea. Where is the logic and reasoning in this conversation? Can it really be possible that we're going to run students out of their own space in the TC without providing a space that's at least equally ours in the UC or the library?

Even so, we've got to roll with the punches to a point. That's part of it, I guess. So the lab will probably move to the library. Here's why students should really be yelling about this move: the proposed layout of the lab in the library doesn't seem like its very student friendly. I'm sure that it was conceived of with the best of intentions, but the fact is that from looking at it, it feels like instead of having a lab for students we'll have a corner of computers in the back.

If the administration wants to move all the computers to the library, there's nothing we can really do about it, but students must stand up and be heard about the way they'll be spending their study time on those computers. There is an alternative layout proposal that will work better, but it will require moving an entire row of books! I think they should move the books and provide students with the space we need to comfortably use the computers that we pay for directly with our technology fees. I support moving the lab to the UC, but if we can't do that, then I definitely support the alternative layout plan that has been proposed. I think that students would be better served by having a little more space and the feeling of still having a space that is our own. No one wants to feel like they've been "squeezed" into a building, and we are no different.

Alan Gabehart, the dean of the Library, is extremely student friendly. His leadership over there is why we have the computers that are available now and the new laptop stations in the library that I see students using with their laptops every day. I hope that students can convince the dean, along with the rest of the administration, that when they move the lab, it can be a good thing for everyone involved. Let's take this opportunity to improve what we offer students as a computer lab. After all, if you've seen the new LSUS TV commercials, then you know: "It's all about us"!

Joe Hayes
SGA President

Welcome back from Spring Break - 44 days to go!

the Almagest
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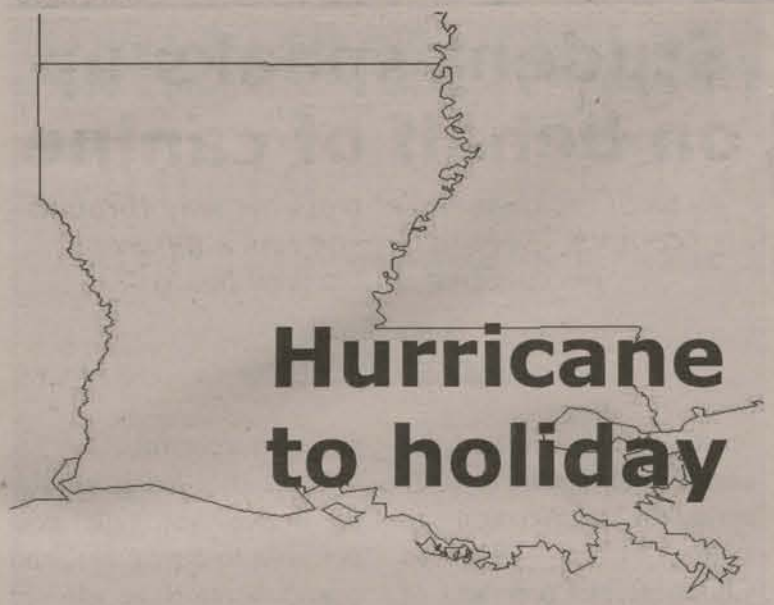


Hurricane to holiday

Carly Waters
Contributing Writer

State Rep. Juan LaFonta of New Orleans has proposed three bills that will make the anniversaries of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina state holidays. The devastation of these hurricanes is still felt throughout Louisiana today, and if passed, these bills will ensure that these infamous days will never be forgotten.

Hurricane Katrina, one of the strongest hurricanes to hit land in the United States, overwhelmed much of the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005. The damage caused by the hurricane was catastrophic in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama. According to CNN, the damage done by Hurricane Katrina was estimated to be around $81.2 billion, making it the most costly natural disaster in U.S. history.

Hurricane Rita hit the coasts of Louisiana and Texas on Sep. 24, 2005. Although the hurricane was not as detrimental to Louisiana as Hurricane Katrina, several coastal parishes were severely damaged or completely destroyed.

LaFonta has filed three bills to be reviewed in the regular legislative session held on March 31. One bill would make the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Aug. 29, a state holiday commemorating both hurricanes. The other two bills propose that Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita be remembered individually on their respective dates.

If passed, these bills will commemorate the devastation and loss felt by the Gulf Coast region by Louisiana in particular.

"There is not a day that goes by that people don't think of them," LaFonta said.

Many people throughout the state are unmoved by the sentiment of creating a commemorative day. These people are still greatly affected by the impact of these hurricanes and may not want to be reminded of the devastation they caused.

Christine Bradley, junior, journalism, was forced to evacuate New Orleans in 2005. Two weeks into her second semester at the University of New Orleans Katrina threatened to hit, and she vacated the city.

"I don't think the holidays are a good idea because I think it should be our state's priority to move past this. The only thing we would be remembering is how FEMA didn't do their job," said Bradley.

Kappa Sigma to see-saw their hearts out

Third annual See-Saw-a-Thon projected to bring in 5,000 for Right to Play, Inc. through fundraiser

Whitney Tarkowski
Contributing Writer

Kappa Sigma Fraternity is hosting their 3rd annual See-Saw-a-Thon at LSUS Friday through Sunday.

The See-Saw-a-Thon is a way for Kappa Sigma to raise money for the Right To Play organization. Right to Play, Inc., is dedicated to building an all-inclusive playground, designed so that all children, the fully able and those with physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities, can play together. This organization is responsible for the new playground at A.C. Steer Elementary that is universally accessible.

Last year, Kappa Sigma raised $3,000 for the organization, and this year they are striving to reach $5,000. How the See-Saw-a-Thon works is that the guys will be out in front of the LSUS campus with a 12 foot see-saw for 50 consecutive hours.

The fundraiser will begin at noon on April 4th and end at 2 p.m. on the following Sunday. The see-saw must constantly be in motion, and everyone can ride. Saturday afternoon is a great time for anyone to come out and see what is going on.

"We would like everyone's support because Kappa Sigma is trying to raise more money and give back to the community," said Steven Susla, sophomore, biology, and Kappa Sigma, Grand Master of Ceremonies.

Kappa Sigma is accepting donations and will be accepting them the whole time they are out on the seesaw. Stop by, say hey, make a donation, and even take a few turns on the seesaw. All the proceeds will go to Right to Play, and they are building playgrounds that are right here in Shreveport. They cannot raise money unless people come out and donate!

Debate over lab continues

Ken Lawson
Contributing Writer

The Campus-Wide Lab located in the Technology Center is scheduled to be moved out completely and set up by summer to be ready and available to students in the fall. The future location is still under consideration by the Campus-Wide Lab manager Del Johnson, the Student Government Association and the Dean of the Library Alan Gabehart.

The locations that are being considered are the first floor of the Noel Memorial Library and the old bookstore located in the University Center, which is now being used as surplus storage. Johnson thinks that the library's first floor is the ideal space for the lab's move.

"It's more cost-efficient and there's room for growth," said Johnson.

On the other side of the spectrum, Student Government Association representatives would like to see the lab moved into the old bookstore. The surplus items currently stored in the old bookstore will have to be relocated. The fire code for the space is still unknown, as are the renovation costs.

"The best move for the students would be the bookstore, but there's no room for expansion," said Johnson. He said that the lab, if located in the library, would have the same hours as the library.

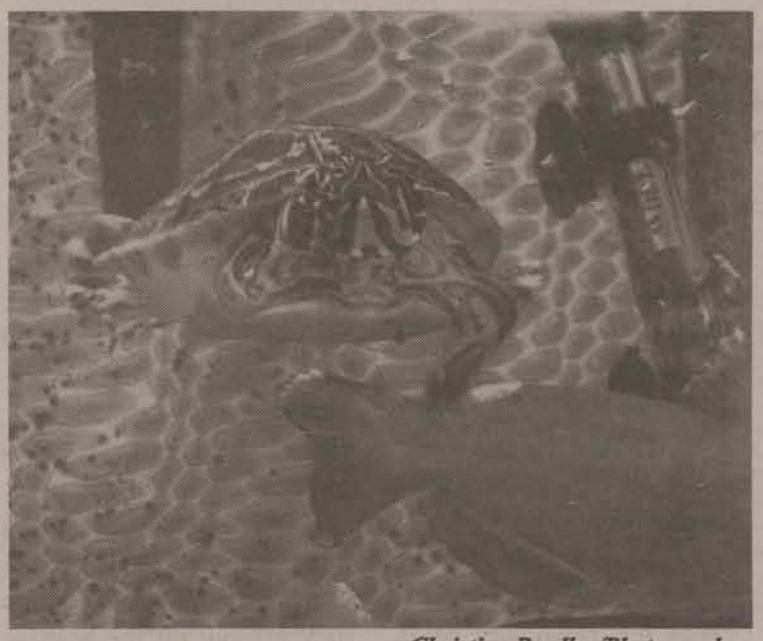
"The library's entire first floor should be a lab. Books are not used as much as they were 10 years ago," he said. "It is a digital age now, and eventually we could expand."

The university plans to use the space in the Technology Center for a new program that coincides with Cyber Command at Barksdale Air Force Base.

"The Cyber Command program is a huge thing for LSUS. This will draw in more students and create new programs," Paul Sisson, dean of college of sciences said. There is also an effort to develop a doctoral program in the lab. This too will help LSUS to expand and create new programs for students.

"I'm excited if the move means we grow, develop new programs for us, take in more students and help keep some students here," Johnson said.

Photo of the week



Christine Bradley/Photographer

Underwater adventures take place with local turtle in Science building aquarium

A dream not deferred

Ken Lawson
Contributing Writer

Senior citizens 65 years old or older have a chance to attend LSUS tuition-free thanks to a Louisiana law that exempts tuition for seniors. According to Heather Marzack, Admissions and Records Office, the only requirement is a photo I.D. that has their birth date on it to ensure they are eligible for the exemption.

"It's never too late to fulfill your dreams. All it takes is a little motivation," said Dorothy Wheeler, a 66 year old student. "As long as I'm here, I'm going to keep trying." More and more senior citizens are going back to school to pursue their dreams, and now, they can do it a lot easier. With only 17 students enrolled with this exemption in the Fall 2007 and Spring, there have not been too many people to take advantage of this opportunity at LSUS. The only thing that is to be paid is the technology fee and other enrollment fees.

This program should serve as an inspiration to students here and everywhere. Your dreams should not be deferred, no matter the age.

ADVISING cont.

your goals," said Lonnie McCray, English professor and director of general studies.

Advisors are also there to help during the registration process if a problem arises with certain classes.

"Advising is very useful when classes are blocked or there is a misunderstanding," said Holli Thomas, sophomore, elementary education.

Advisors are also around all semester to help answer questions about classes and degree requirements.

Registration begins April 7 and will continue throughout the week. Graduate students and seniors will be first to register on April 7, juniors on April 8, sophomores on April 9, and April 10 all freshmen can register.

Student speaks up on behalf of canine

As local resident Bullet trots his way through campus, Serena Greene has a different perspective on his well being

Kacy Smith
Contributing Writer

Although student Serena Greene, senior, bio chemistry had seen the black dog around campus many times before, it was not until she recently noticed his matted hair and occasional limp that she decided something needed to be done about the apparent stray. Greene contacted a local no-kill animal shelter and found out what needed to be done to get the dog off campus and into a safe place. She was concerned for the medical care and well being of the dog.

After learning that the organization was willing to capture and care for the dog, Greene contacted campus police to receive permission to allow workers from the shelter on campus to get the dog. It was then she discovered that the dog had been staying on campus for at least seven years, and the campus police were actually caring for him. According to Police Chief Rebecca Chiles, several members of the department bring food for the dog, which the department has named Bullet.

In a shelter, Bullet would have the proper care he needs. He would receive vaccinations, regular check ups, and would be neutered. It is also possible that Bullet would be adopted out, if it were shown that his behavior would allow it. Chiles however says this would not be good for the dog.

"I do not think he would be adoptable if picked up because of his wariness of humans," said Chiles.

Several years ago, the department called animal control in hopes of getting the dog off campus, but they were unsuccessful.

Even after being told by the police that Bullet was not able to be caught, and would therefore be allowed to remain on campus under their care, Greene still feels that this is not in the dog's best interest.

"If they actually took care of Bullet, providing him his vaccinations, etc, then I would have no problem with him living on campus," said Greene.

However, until Bullet receives adequate care, Greene says he should still be sent to a shelter. The campus police on the other hand have a different plan. "As long as he is not a danger to anyone, we have no plans to remove him from campus, and we will continue to look after him," said Chiles.

SAB combats abuse in April

Whitney Tarkowski
Contributing Writer

The Student Activites Board in conjuction with the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) series will be raising awareness about domestic violence in the month of April. They are holding a self-defense class April 1.

This class is a hands-on demonstration of self-defense. It will take place at 6 p.m. in the HPE building in the mat room. All LSUS students are invited especially all of the women. These self-defense moves designed to protect yourself from an attacker and to make everyone feel more comfortable when it comes to defending themselves if need be.

"I am very excited about this opportunity. As a woman sometimes it is scary if you do not know how to defend yourself, and now I can go learn different moves with my friends," said Lesley Reed, senior, business.

The class is taught by Carl Townley. He is the head of the Narcotics Unit for the Caddo Parish Sheriffs Department. Townley teaches courses such as self-defense as a voluntary service and is coming to LSUS. If you want to learn more about self-defense come out to the class, it will be worth it!

TEXT BOOKS cont.

weight with them."

The resolution asks that the board of regents look closely at the rising costs of textbooks during the 2008-2009 academic year. This means that nothing will change in textbook prices for Louisiana college students immediately.

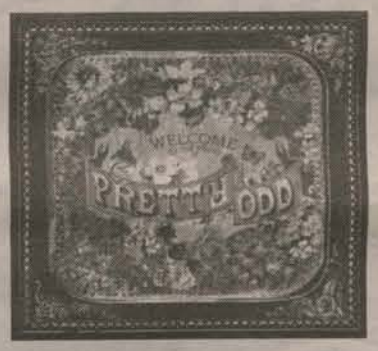
Weekly Music Line-Up

When:	Where:	Bands:
March 27th @ 9 p.m.	Mia's Pub	Ethan Durelle
March 28th @ 8 p.m.	Harlequin Alley	Fallen to Rise, DeadWard
March 28th @ 10 p.m.	The Warehouse	Reflections Burn, Paris Green, Firekills
March 28th @ 10 p.m.	Sharpies	Sugar Free Allstars
March 29th @ 1 p.m.	Shell Amphitheatere, Centenary	Battle of the Bands
March 29th @ 10 p.m.	The Warehouse	Spoon Productions
March 29th @ 10 p.m.	Sharpies	The Jellybird Circus

Panic! at the Disco

Pretty.Odd

Derick Jones
Managing Editor



When *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out* debuted in 2005, Panic! at the Disco held their heads high as a phenomenal album swept across America. After three years of debates on whether or not the mainstream, high volume band would return to the scene, the boys crank out *Pretty.Odd*, their second studio album.

Their 1960s pop inspired album includes their first single, "Nine in the Afternoon." The uplifting vocals of lead singer Brendon Urie and flowing instrumental style of the band seem to mimic Fall Out Boy, but as this orchestrated romance comes to a close, listeners realize that's not true at all.

"Behind the Sea," another song from the album, favors an acoustic version of any and all White Stripes songs. One would say a new age Bob Dylan. Urie manipulates the pitch of his voice to create a track all his own.

"We're So Starving," is a classic Panic! song, reminiscent of their first album and has a very choreographed, jazz-like feel. The bass lines and guitar chords are flawless.

"We want to make music [that is] simple and timeless and not too pretentious," said Ryan Ross, guitarist for Panic!, in an interview with Rolling Stone.

This album is an inspirational album for the Las Vegas boys, dedicating it to the Beach Boys, Bob Dylan and the Beatles.

Panic! at the Disco will perform on April 17 at the Thomas Assembly Center in Ruston. For more information regarding alternative tour dates and pricing, visit www.hondacivictour.com

The Bank Job:

Originality is Foiled Again

James Howard
Contributing Writer

Ever seen a Guy Ritchie movie? Congratulations, you've seen *The Bank Job*. Sure, this movie wasn't directed by Ritchie but rather Roger Donaldson (*Thirteen Days, The World's Fastest Indian*), but if we have any doubting Thomases among us, lets break out the checklist. Set in London? Check. Superfluous use of the words "bullocks," "aye!," and other cute English attempts at cussing? Check. An unnecessarily convoluted plot centered around a group of bottom feeding criminals? Check.

Jason Statham (*Transporter, Crank*) portrays Terry Leather, yes "Terry Leather," an out of luck used car salesman with connections to the London mob and a criminal history. Leather is convinced to execute a highly complicated bank heist by a conniving ex girlfriend and her highly connected boyfriend. Presumably, hilarity is meant to ensue as Leather and his unwieldy crew attempts the robbery. Unfortunately, the audience is instead treated to threadbare engagement as they are forced to see what is essentially a "sweeded" version of Ritchie's *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*.

The acting was acceptable. Statham is able to continue his running portrayal of the lovable yet bumbling English criminal, and Saffron Burrows (*The Guitar*) and Stephen Campbell Moore (*The History Boys*) ably aid to the grudgingly painful progression of the tired plot. Donaldson's choice of actors was probably his best move in directing the movie, as all of them are nominally "English," but do not have accents that leave the viewer with sore and strained ears. The dialog was certainly not awe-inspiring, but it was understandable, the keystone to any twisted and difficult-to-follow movie plot.

Once again, my quest to find a unique and engaging movie is thwarted by directors who insist on recycling old box office sure things in the pursuit of profit instead of originality. If you're looking to blow six bucks and a couple of hours of your life, I suppose The Bank Job is better than most of the swill in theaters. However, that's the best endorsement I can muster for Donaldson's weak attempt at comedy.

Story idea?

Send your story ideas or comments to: almagest@lsus.edu

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To reserve a slot for the 2008 Washington Semester, a $400 nonrefundable housing deposit is required. Check should be payable to LSUS. DUE MARCH 15.

Offense lags in second game of double header

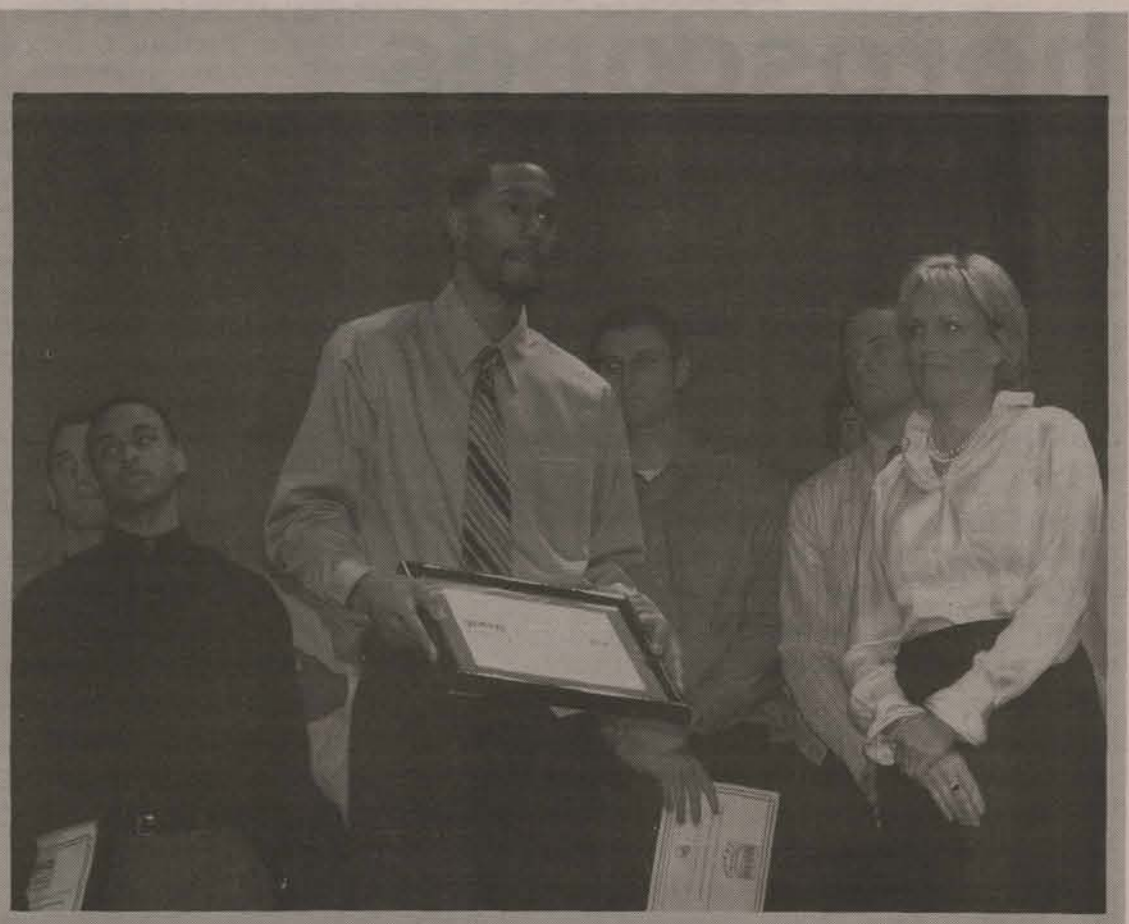
Bradley Ball
Contributing Writer

The LSUS Pilots baseball team split a double header against the Spring Hill College Badgers on Saturday. The Pilots won 11-10 in the first game and lost 6-1 in the second. The Pilots are 23-9 overall and 17-6 in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference.

In the first game, the Pilots seemed to have the game well in hand after being up 6-0 after three innings. The Pilots gave up seven runs in the 4th inning. They rallied back with strong performances by center fielder Quinton Shamsabody, who went 3-for-4 and had two RBI, second baseman Andrew Brouillette, who went 2-for-3 and had three RBI, and right fielder Josh Todd, who was 2-for-3 and had two RBI. Left fielder Brandon Bravata and third baseman Jeffrey Garidel also hit well when they got to the plate. Brouillette and Garidel each had a home run in the game. The Pilots used four pitchers in the game. Pitcher Justin Ennis was awarded the win.

In the second game, the Pilots couldn't generate offense. The Badgers pitcher Matt Hasley struck out eight Pilots. First baseman Jeff Ledet was 1-for-4 and had one RBI, for the only Pilots run scored in the game. The Pilots committed four errors in the game. The Pilots could only muster up five hits after having 12 hits in the previous game.

The Pilots next game is Friday in Jackson, Miss., against Bellhaven College. It will be their fourth meeting this season. Bellhaven leads the season series 2-1.



Courtesy of Don Bloxom

LSUS Pilot Josh Porter received the Champion Character Award from the NAIA in Kansas City, Mo. on March 18.

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Schedule of Events

Men's Baseball: Home Games

When:	Opponent:	Time:
April 8th	Wiley	6:30 p.m.
April 18th	William Carey	6:30 p.m.
April 19th	William Carey	1 p.m.
April 22nd	Northwood	4 p.m.
April 25th	Mobile	6:30 p.m.
April 26th	Mobile	1 p.m.

Congratulations Dr. Paul Sisson on receiving the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award

horoscopes

Dezi Mitchell, Seer Extraordinaire

Aries: You and your heart are going through some craziness right now. While it might not be the most fun you've ever had, you can tell it's a lot better than what could have happened instead.

Taurus: You've got some major emotions working their way through your heart right now and they might interfere with your daily business. There's no way to bypass them, and you're better off coping now.

Gemini: Think about your health today, and figure out at least one positive step you can take to improve it. Your connection with your body is very strong and, you should find yourself working better together.

Cancer: Intense emotions are having their way with you, and that could be fun or distressing depending on the context. Whether you like it or not, you should be calmer by tomorrow.

Leo: Your attention is required elsewhere-but you may not know where. It's one of those days that seems to drag on in the wrong parts and then rush past the good stuff. You'll settle down soon.

Virgo: You've got farther to go before you're satisfied, so don't be shy about pushing deeper and deeper until you've reached the end. Things should be much clearer by the very end of the day.

Libra: Your intensity is all you really need to get you going-and wherever you go, you'll go far. If you're involved romantically, this might be a good time to heat things up a little bit.

Scorpio: Now is the perfect time to add new people to your entourage-in fact, you probably won't be able to keep them away! If you're looking for someone in particular, they'll come soon.

Sagittarius: You need to take it easy for now, because your energy is moving at a slower pace than the rest of the world. That could make you grumpy, but the good news is that you're working out some subconscious issues.

Capricorn: You need to make sure that you're not coming across as "holier-than-thou" because, you're certainly not feeling that way. Your detachment could signal almost anything to those who don't know you well.

Aquarius: Your feelings are running a lot deeper than you're used to and that could mean that you've got something big to discuss with a family member or friend. Try to take care of it soon.

Pisces: Put off any important decisions for a few more days -- you're still *weighing your options*, even if you can't really figure out the specifics. Your intuition needs a little more time to process.

sudoku

4		9	3				1	
1	5	6	9	7				
							9	5
	6				3			
8								2
			1				3	
5	8							
				3	8	9	5	1
	9				6	4		8

DON'T FORGET! Your questions need answers! The Co-*Pilot* is just an email away!

Submit all questions and thoughts to almagest@lsus.edu, attention: Co-*Pilot!*

Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist **By: Mike Schwalke & Diego Tripodi**

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE SUCKERED ME INTO ANOTHER SILLY ADVENTURE.
SHOOSH. WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THEIR CAMP.
THE CAMP LOOKS DESERTED FROM HERE. THIS MIGHT BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.
WELL LOOKEE WHAT I CAUGHT.
WHAT THE?
HEY!
OOF
THIS IS GONNA BE SWEET.
BREAK HIS PRETTY FACE.
BLAM!
I THINK OUR FRIEND HAS HAD ENOUGH, GENTS. BRING THEM TO THE BOAT.
BWAAAK!

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